

Media Advisory

Secretary of State
State of Louisiana



W. Fox McKeithen
Secretary of State

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STATEMENT FROM THE MCKEITHEN FAMILY

BATON ROUGE, LA – The McKeithen family announces that former Secretary of State W. Fox McKeithen passed away peacefully Saturday morning from complications from an infection. Visitation for Secretary McKeithen will be 10:00 am to 1:00 pm at the McKeithen Family Home on Hogan Plantation located on Long Lake in Columbia on Tuesday, July 19. The funeral will be held at 2:00 pm on Tuesday at the First United Methodist Church in Columbia.

Secretary McKeithen resigned from office on Friday after serving the people of Louisiana for more than 22 years.

“It has been the honor of a lifetime to have served Louisiana and the great people of this state for so many years,” Secretary McKeithen said in his letter of resignation. “Because of recent complications from my injury in February, I regretfully can no longer serve.”

Walter Fox McKeithen was born in Columbia, Louisiana, on September 8, 1946. He graduated from Caldwell Parish High School in 1964 and was senior class president and a three-sport letterman. McKeithen received a bachelor's degree in history/social studies from Louisiana Tech University. His business experience included establishing three successful businesses in Caldwell Parish. He also served as a teacher and coach at Caldwell Parish High School.

In 1983, McKeithen was elected to the Louisiana House of Representatives and served on the Appropriations, Natural Resources and Joint Budget Committees. In 1987, he was elected Secretary of State, and was elected to a fifth consecutive term in 2003 with 72 percent of the vote. McKeithen was a member of the Board of Trustees of the Louisiana School Employees' Retirement System; Louisiana Tourist Development Commission; Louisiana Workmen's Compensation, Second Injury Board; Governor's Advisory Council on Disability Affairs; Chairman of the State Board of Election Supervisors; and the State Bond Commission.

McKeithen was a member of the International Association of Corporate Administrators; International Association of Clerks, Records, Election Officials and Treasurers; and National Association of Secretaries of State. He also was a past member of the Louisiana High School Coaches Association. He was also a member of Broadmoor Methodist Church. McKeithen was the proud father of four children -- Marjorie Ann, Marianne May, Rebecca Ann and John Jesse, and the proud grandfather of James Ford Murray Garon and Jesse Fox McKeithen Garon.